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Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations: cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie

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Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 33/18 of 10 November 1978, 50/3 of 16 October 1995, 52/2 of 17 October 1997, 54/25 of 15 November 1999, 56/45 of 7 December 2001, 57/43 of 21 November 2002, 59/22 of 8 November 2004, 61/7 of 20 October 2006, 63/236 of 22 December 2008, 65/263 of 14 January 2011 and 67/137 of 18 December 2012, as well as its decision 53/453 of 18 December 1998,

Recalling also its resolutions 61/266 of 16 May 2007, 63/306 of 9 September 2009, 65/311 of 19 July 2011 and 67/292 of 24 July 2013 on multilingualism,

Considering that the International Organization of la Francophonie, which is made up of 80 States Members of the United Nations, representing more than one third of the members of the General Assembly, is promoting multilateral cooperation in areas of common interest,

Bearing in mind the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations which encourage the promotion of the purposes and principles of the United Nations through regional cooperation,

Bearing in mind also that, according to the Charter of la Francophonie, adopted on 23 November 2005 at the Ministerial Conference of la Francophonie, held in Antananarivo, the objectives of the International Organization of la Francophonie are to assist in the establishment and development of democracy, the prevention, management and settlement of conflicts, support for the rule of law

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and for human rights, the intensification of dialogue between cultures and civilizations, the establishment of closer ties among peoples through mutual knowledge, the strengthening of their solidarity through multilateral cooperation activities with a view to promoting the growth of their economies, and the promotion of education and training,

Welcoming the steps taken by the International Organization of la francophonie to strengthen its ties with the organizations of the United Nations system and with international and regional organizations with a view to attaining its objectives,

Affirming the importance of a balanced and effective multilateral system that is representative of today's world, one that is based upon a strong and renewed United Nations,

Noting with satisfaction the commitment of the International Organization of la Francophonie to human rights, multilingualism and multilateral cooperation for peace, democratic governance and the rule of law, economic governance and solidarity, sustainable development and its financing, especially poverty eradication, protection of the environment, combating climate change and countering terrorism in all its forms,

Noting with satisfaction also the commitments made in "The future we want", the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012,[1] particularly those aimed at accelerating the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including efforts to reach the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, and reaffirmed by the Heads of State and Government of countries using French as a common language at the fifteenth Summit of la Francophonie, held in Dakar on 29 and 30 November 2014, together with an undertaking to play an active role in formulating and implementing the post-2015 development agenda and a determination to implement national sustainable development strategies to make an effective contribution to eradicating poverty and protecting the environment,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 67/137,[2]

Noting with satisfaction the substantial progress achieved in cooperation between the United Nations, the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies and programmes and the International Organization of la Francophonie,

Convinced that strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie serves the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Noting the will of the two organizations to consolidate, develop and strengthen the ties that exist between them in the political, economic, social and cultural fields with respect to each of the pillars of international peace and security, development and human rights,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General,[2] and welcomes the strengthened and fruitful cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie;

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[1] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[2] A/69/228-S/2014/560.

2. *Notes with satisfaction*, in accordance with the declaration adopted by the Heads of State and Government of countries using French as a common language at the fifteenth Summit of la Francophonie, the active participation of the International Organization of la Francophonie in the work of the United Nations, among whose purposes, as set forth in its Charter, are to maintain international peace and security, to develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples and respect for the principle of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, to achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and to be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of those common ends;

3. *Also notes with satisfaction* the continued strengthening of cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie in the area of human rights and in the promotion of gender equality, and commends the initiatives taken by the International Organization of la Francophonie in the areas of crisis and conflict prevention, management and resolution, the promotion of peace, support for democracy and the rule of law, full respect for human rights and good governance, the fight against impunity and the promotion of international criminal justice, in accordance with the commitments set forth in its Bamako Declaration of 3 November 2000 on the practices of democracy, rights and freedoms in the francophone world,[3] and reaffirmed at the Ministerial Conference of la Francophonie on Conflict Prevention and Human Security, held on 13 and 14 May 2006 in Saint Boniface, Canada;

4. *Welcomes* the involvement of the International Organization of la Francophonie in high-level consultations on the Sahel and its genuine contribution, in cooperation with, among others, the United Nations, to crisis resolution and recovery and to peacebuilding in Burkina Faso, Burundi, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Madagascar and Tunisia, and in the Sahel, including Mali and the Niger;

5. *Also welcomes* the strengthened cooperation between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the International Organization of la Francophonie, including to provide support for French-speaking countries in the context of the universal periodic review and other human rights mechanisms, and further welcomes the renewal of the cooperation agreement between the two Organizations for the period 2014-2015 and of the programmes implemented since the renewal of the agreement, in the three areas of cooperation, namely, the provision of support for human rights instruments, the promotion of human rights in crisis prevention and peacekeeping, and the promotion of diversity and the fight against discrimination;

6. *Expresses its deep concern* about the continued violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, including in countries in crisis or emerging from crisis, and particularly against women and children, and welcomes the signature in May 2014 of the cooperation agreement between the International Organization of la Francophonie and the International Committee of the Red Cross;

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[3] A/55/731, annex.

7. *Welcomes* the development of cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie, with the participation of other regional and subregional organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations, in the fields of early warning and crisis and conflict prevention, encourages the pursuit of this initiative with a view to formulating practical recommendations to facilitate the establishment of relevant operational mechanisms, where necessary, and invites the relevant stakeholders to redouble their efforts to reduce risks and latent vulnerabilities, including by considering the development of risk management and resilience strategies;

8. *Recognizes*, as part of the cooperation between United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie, the interest in intensifying efforts to move from early warning to rapid response and the need to promote the full participation of women and youth in conflict prevention, management and resolution mechanisms through their involvement in negotiation and peace agreement processes;

9. *Welcomes* the impetus given to the participation of States members of the International Organization of la Francophonie in peacekeeping operations, while recalling that it is up to the United Nations to preserve multilingualism and the Secretariat to integrate multilingualism in the activities of these operations, and draws attention to the strengthened cooperation between the International Organization of la Francophonie, on one hand, and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support of the Secretariat, on the other, with a view to increasing the number of French-speaking personnel, including women, involved in United Nations peacekeeping operations;

10. *Notes* that a large number of civilian and military peacekeeping personnel are deployed by the United Nations in francophone countries, and in this regard encourages the continuation of efforts by the States members of the International Organization of la Francophonie and by the Organization itself, taking into account the authority of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, to increase the supply of French-speaking civilian and military contingents on missions to francophone countries and to build their capacities, including access by French-speaking personnel to leadership positions in peacekeeping operations in francophone countries;

11. *Welcomes* the launch in January 2014 of the Francophone Expertise and Training Network for Peace Operations, attended by high-level representatives of the United Nations Secretariat, and the fruitful cooperation that it has established with the Secretariat, particularly with the Police Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, to strengthen the francophone presence in peacekeeping operations;

12. *Also welcomes* the contributions of francophone countries and of the International Organization of la Francophonie to the consultations of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations, created by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to make an assessment of peacekeeping operations and notes their expectations for greater recognition, where appropriate, of the language dimension for the proper implementation of mandates;

13. *Further welcomes* the participation of the International Organization of la Francophonie in the Peacebuilding Commission's work on Burundi, the Central

African Republic, Guinea and Guinea-Bissau, and strongly encourages the International Organization of la Francophonie and the Peacebuilding Commission to continue to cooperate actively;

14. *Welcomes* the involvement of the International Organization of la Francophonie in promoting international criminal justice, as well as the signing of a partnership agreement between the International Organization of la Francophonie and the International Criminal Court, which illustrates the role played by the International Organization of la Francophonie in protecting human rights, restoring the rule of law and combating impunity;

15. *Also welcomes* the importance given by the States members of the International Organization of la Francophonie to cooperating in the area of international criminal justice and facilitating the development of judicial cooperation procedures between States, which is essential in prosecuting perpetrators of the most serious crimes;

16. *Further welcomes* the efforts of the International Organization of la Francophonie to establish democratic governance of security systems and to define a francophone position with regard to justice, truth and reconciliation in order to support French-speaking States in crisis and in transition;

17. *Notes with satisfaction* the development of collaboration between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie in electoral monitoring and assistance, and encourages the strengthening of cooperation between the two organizations in that area;

18. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for including the International Organization of la Francophonie in the periodic meetings he holds with heads of regional organizations, and invites him to continue to do so, taking into account the role played by the International Organization of la Francophonie in conflict prevention and support for democracy and the rule of law;

19. *Notes* the commitment of States members of the International Organization of la Francophonie to improve global governance so as to promote a balanced multilateral system which assures permanent and equitable representation of Africa in decision-making bodies;

20. *Also notes* the firm commitment by the States members of the International Organization of la Francophonie, at its fifteenth summit, to pursue efforts:

(a) To integrate women and youth concerns in public policies with regard to their roles in all spheres of political, economic and social life;

(b) To strengthen actions against terrorism, which threatens international peace and security, to support efforts aimed at securing borders and international and regional cooperation addressing the establishment of terrorist networks and cross-border crime;

(c) To implement the commitments by member States, in accordance with international law, in the area of the fight against terrorism, including the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, especially those demanding a stop to the financing of terrorism and the harbouring of terrorists;

(d) To promote, on the basis of the economic and youth strategies of the Organization of la Francophonie, an inclusive economy based on the promotion of human capital, local development, protection of natural capital and mitigating vulnerability to climate change, as well as a basic education, a higher education and quality vocational and technical training accessible to all;

(e) To act for the achievement of sustainable, equitable and inclusive growth within the post-2015 development agenda and to take into account priorities with regard to women and youth, and, within the framework of the sustainable development goals, to commit to a multidimensional approach to sustainable human development and to mobilize for a universal, ambitious, just and equitable agreement, in accordance with the principles and provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;[4]

21. *Invites* the specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, as well as the regional commissions, including the Economic Commission for Africa, to collaborate with the Secretary-General of la Francophonie by identifying new synergies in favour of sustainable development, in particular in the areas of poverty eradication, economic growth, energy, the environment and the fight against climate change, culture, education, training and the development of new information technologies, in particular with a view to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals and the sustainable development goals, to the benefit of all, including children, young people and women;

22. *Welcomes* the renewal of the agreement between the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the International Organization of la Francophonie, on 6 June 2014, as well as their cooperation, in particular in such areas as women's participation in political decision-making and in economic, social and cultural life, advocacy for the equality of women and men, the integration of gender equality into sustainable development and combating violence against women and girls, and invites the two institutions to strengthen their cooperation in the elaboration and implementation of the post-2015 development agenda;

23. *Also welcomes* the will expressed by the International Organization of la francophonie to contribute to the success of the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Sendai, Japan, from 14 to 18 March 2015, the United Nations Forum on Forests, to be held in New York from 4 to 15 May 2015, the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in Addis Ababa from 13 to 16 July 2015, the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, to be held in New York from 25 to 27 September 2015, the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Paris from 30 November to 11 December 2015 and the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), to be held in Quito during the week of 17 October 2016;

24. *Further welcomes* the cooperation between the World Intellectual Property Organization and the International Organization of la Francophonie to

[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

implement the memorandum of understanding between the two organizations aimed at intensifying their technical cooperation efforts for the benefit of their members;

25. *Expresses its gratitude* to the International Organization of la Francophonie for the steps it has taken in recent years to promote cultural and linguistic diversity and dialogue between cultures and civilizations, and encourages the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie to cooperate more closely to ensure full respect for provisions on multilingualism;

26. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of la Francophonie for their sustained efforts to strengthen cooperation and coordination between the two organizations, thereby serving their mutual interests in the political, economic, social and cultural fields;

27. *Welcomes* the involvement of the countries that use French as a common language, particularly through the International Organization of la Francophonie, in the preparation for, conduct of and follow-up to international conferences organized under the auspices of the United Nations, as witnessed at the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on disability and development, held in New York on 23 September 2013, the Climate Summit, held in New York on 23 September 2014, the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held in Apia from 1 to 4 September 2014, and the twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Lima from 1 to 12 December 2014;

28. *Also welcomes* the high-level meetings held periodically between the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of la Francophonie, and requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations, acting in cooperation with the Secretary-General of la Francophonie, to encourage the holding of periodic meetings between their representatives in order to promote the exchange of information, coordination of activities and identification of new areas of cooperation;

29. *Invites* the Secretary-General of the United Nations to take the steps necessary, in collaboration with the Secretary-General of la Francophonie, to continue to promote cooperation between the two organizations;

30. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

31. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session, under the item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations", the sub-item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie".